

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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16

ACTION EUR-10

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R 181045 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3995

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2403

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: RFE WATERGATE COVERAGE

1. WHILE I WAS SEEING VICE MINISTER SPASOWSKI ON OTHER MATTERS ON MAY 17 HE HANDED ME A TYPED EXCERPT FROM THE TRANSCRIPT OF AN RFE BROADCAST OF MAY 13, 1973, CONCERNING THE WATERGATE AFFAIR. THE FIRST PARAGRAPH CONSISTED OF A BRIEF, FACTUAL NEWS ITEM. HOWEVER, THE SECOND PARAGRAPH, WHICH WAS ONE SENTENCE IN LENGTH, STATED: " THE POLISH AUTHORITIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS IS NOT A SUBJECT OF INTEREST FOR MASS MEDIA IN POLAND". SPASOWSKI THEN ASKED ME RHETORICALLY WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE WATERGATE AFFAIR DISCUSSED BY THE POLISH MEDIA.

2. WHILE WATERGATE IS A MAJOR NEWS STORY AND, AS SUCH, IS CERTAINLY A LEGITIMATE SUBJECT FOR COVERAGE BY RFE, THE COMMENT CONTAINED IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH SEEMS TO ME ENTIRELY GRATUITOUS. I HOPE THAT RFE WILL REFRAIN FROM THIS SORT OF COMMENTARY IN FUTURE COVERAGE OF WATERGATE.

DAVIES

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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